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VOLUME 130 NUMBER 14

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LIFE & ARTS



Student Tyler Marshall wants to become a boxer. He never had professional training; he uses video lessons.

page 4

SPORTS



Morehead State University's softball team is ready for battle this season.

page 6

INTERACTIVE



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SERVICE

Roman Health Department Ser-
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February 16, 2009
March 23, 2009
April 30, 2009
May 27, 2009
June 24, 2009

Find out when health department services are offered at MSU's health clinic online at

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University bracing for impact

Andrews expects an additional 2% budget cut this fiscal year, says campus will get audit results in mid march

CARLO ANGERER — EDITOR

Morehead State President Wayne Andrews said he expects an additional 2 percent cut in state appropriations for the university for the current fiscal year.

"That has not been explicitly stated. We are working under the assumption this is the cut for this year," he said.

Asked if this cut could be permanent, Andrews said, "It is highly likely it will be carried forward."

Kennedy legislators have been in session this week discussing options to cope with a \$456 million budget shortfall.

No final decision has been made on what measures to take, but the House budget committee has introduced tax pro-

posals that would double taxes on tobacco and apply the state's 6 percent sales tax to wine, liquor and beer.

Any revenue created in those plans would make up only part of the shortfall.

Federal money for states is becoming more questionable. The U.S. House version of a proposed \$838 billion stimulus bill included funding for states and education but that funding was significantly cut in the Senate version.

President Andrews traveled to Washington, D.C., last week to lobby legisla-

tors for support of educational funding. He said higher education is still high on legislators' lists, but there are major philosophical differences between Democrats and Republicans when it comes to fund-

ing the stimulus bill.

Andrews said an additional 2-percent budget cut for this fiscal year is likely. This would mean the university would have to absorb an additional loss of slightly less than \$1 million of state funding from now through June.

"We would look at all vacant positions and see which of those could be left vacant or permanently eliminated," he said. "We would look at cost-saving measures across the university and we could go to institutional reserves."

Andrews said the current budget year is not the "real problem." The fiscal year 2010 could spell more cuts. Even then, he said, cutting positions would be the last measure.

Research done by MSU administrators in recent months could help identify cost-cutting possibilities, Andrews expects in the coming weeks to have the results of a program that looked at the feasibility of the regional campuses.

Andrews said he expects results from

the Curriculum Audit Report "any day." The president's cabinet will examine the recommendations in the audit report and a final version of the report would be made available to the campus community by mid March, he said.

"Since we find ourselves in a very difficult budget situation, I'm very hopeful that we can use the results of the curriculum audit to help us identify opportunities to save money — to reallocate money within academic affairs," he said.

If programs are discontinued as a result of the curriculum audit, students should not worry about graduation, he said. "If there is any program discontinuation, programs would only be discontinued over a time period where we would satisfy the requirements of every student," he said.

Other projects affecting students, such as construction of the student recreation center, could be delayed.

SEE IMPACT — page 2

Elevators drop; students upset

KATE JENNING — MANAGING EDITOR

Logan Dedden was on the 16th floor of Cartmell Hall when the elevator jolted to a stop, leaving him stranded for 15 minutes before the doors were opened and he was let out.

Dedden described the experience, a common one for Cartmell residents, as more annoying than frightening, and said as the 3rd floor RA, he receives some complaints about the elevator, but not many.

"A big problem, no. But they are a problem," Dedden said.

However, for students who live on higher floors, such as Mitchell Willoughby, a senior who lives on the 16th floor, the unreliable elevators in Cartmell are more frustrating.

Willoughby said he takes an elevator every day unless they are malfunctioning, which is often, and has a set time he tries to leave every day, and is usually on time.

But the elevators have sometimes caused him to be late, and he said it is nearly impossible to

judge how long they will take.

"If one or two are down, you don't have any waiting on the 10th floor," Willoughby said.

Willoughby said it's aggravating to wait for the elevators, and he doesn't mind walking down the stairs to get to class on time, but walking up 10 floors is horrible.

Sophomore Matt Durham was on one of the Cartmell elevators when it fell.

"I was terrified, but I couldn't scream," Durham said.

Freshman Daniel Rose also has been on an elevator when it fell.

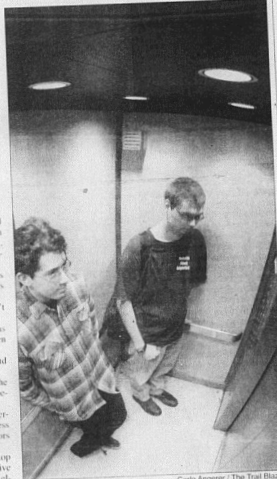
"The middle one will start and fall — drop," Rose said.

Rose also was on one of the Cartmell elevators, when it became stuck between floors.

Sophomore Rebecca Jefferson and junior Paige Burgess also were on one of the elevators when it fell.

"They should be more on top of things. We pay \$1,500 to live here a semester. I want my el-

SEE DROP — page 2



Carlo Angerer / The Trail Blazer

Elevators in Cartmell Hall regularly suffer breakdowns.

Clinic eliminates test fees

CARLO ANGERER — EDITOR

When Brenda Wilburn took over as director of Morehead State University's Counseling and Health Services in August her first goal was to introduce a collaboration between the health clinic and the Rowan County Health Department.

Wilburn succeeded and on Jan. 22 the clinic held its first joint-venture day. She said it was a success with 13 students requesting services.

The health department is scheduled to provide its services at the university clinic on the third Thursday of each month.

The health clinic continues to work with St. Claire Regional Hospital, which regularly provides physician services for the university clinic.

Collaboration with the county health department allows MSU's health clinic to offer expanded women's health and family planning services.

"It helps the students," Wilburn said. "They don't have to go to the health department and worry about competing with the community."

In the past, students had to

SEE CLINIC — page 4

Concerts fall victim to budget cuts

BETTY CHANEY — STAFF WRITER

Because of university budget cuts, MSU's Student Activities Council's (SAC) will not be hosting any concerts this year as they have in the past. Instead, SAC will be offering less costly events.

Almost 700 people attended the most recent SAC-sponsored event, "The Norman Magic Experience," SAC President Zach Goble said.

Goble said a large crowd was vital.

"It had a really good attendance, which is what we need with budget cuts because they're taking away Student Activities money and money that goes to student organizations," Goble said. "Without student attendance they're just going to continue taking money away."

Student Activities Director Mike Esposito said the annual student activities budget is \$245,614 and includes all of the SGA and SAC monies, dollars for programming that his office conducts and other incidental programs and activities.

Emerson Drive performed in Button Auditorium in Fall 2007. Because of university budget cuts the Student Activities Council will not host any concerts this year.

money], but when you consider that SGA and SAC's dollars are in there as well, it is spread out over a lot of areas," Esposito said.

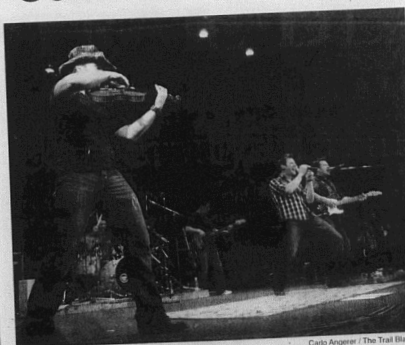
Esposito said people have to remember that amount covers money for different groups. SGA and SAC are funded primarily through student fees and money from the state, Esposito said.

"As of Jan. 30, we've spent in all areas approximately \$81,293," Esposito said. "The remaining budget will be utilized in some capacity, as the semester progresses."

The state's budget reductions required that all state universities give back a percent of their budgets," Esposito said. "After evaluating institutional priorities, the part of the student activities dollars set aside for concerts was lost as a result of budget cuts."

Even though concerts usually have ticket costs, they do not generate revenue, Esposito said. "Concerts cost quite a bit more than concessions," Esposito said.

SEE CONCERT — page 2



Carlo Angerer / The Trail Blazer

Emerson Drive performed in Button Auditorium in Fall 2007. Because of university budget cuts the Student Activities Council will not host any concerts this year.

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IMPACT

continued from page 1

"I expect the building to go out for bid late this spring," Andrews said. "Then it's a matter of what we hope for revenue to pay for it. My hope and expectation is that we will continue with that project but it depends on how severe the cuts are."

CLINIC

continued from page 1

pay laboratory fees as high as \$150 for Pap tests. Through the collaboration with the health department, state funding for family planning now picks up the tab.

"It saves the students money. They can get the health care they need without any lab fee or prescription cost," Wilburn said.

Testing for and treating sexually transmitted diseases also is offered for free through the health department.

Additionally, the health department supplies free birth control pills, which normally cost

He also said students could face another tuition increase.

"I think it is very likely the tuition is going to increase for fall," he said. "But what I would remind people is, we have the lowest tuition of any public university in Kentucky."

Andrews added, "We're not going to raise tuition just for the sake of it. It will only raise it the amount that we need to cover our fixed costs."

about \$50 a month. Wilburn said the university clinic also has a limited supply of birth control pills on site.

Students under 18 also can get vaccines at no cost.

"Right now, the schedule is one day a month," Wilburn said.

"But if there is more interest, we can increase it to one day a week."

Wilburn asks students to schedule appointments. Walk-ins are accepted on a space-available basis.

The next date for health department services is set for Feb. 19. Additional dates can be found on trailblazeronline.net under "services."

CONCERT

continued from page 1

He said SAC charges for concerts but ticket sales do not cover the entire cost associated with holding a concert.

Junior Sharon-Marie Boggs said she prefers concerts to the other events hosted by SAC.

"I haven't attended any events

this year," Boggs said. "I was really hoping for a concert."

Junior Kami Cooper was one of the many students who attended last week's magic show.

"It was really fun," Cooper said. "It was different."

Cooper said she attends events when she gets the chance but she prefers concerts.

"At concerts, it's easier to connect with the performers, especially if you know their music," Cooper said. "With a magic show, you don't know what to expect. It's fun but I don't feel a connection."

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DROP

continued from page 1

levator to work," Jefferson said.

Students also said the elevators are not kept clean.

"They're always full of something - trash or strange liquid," said sophomore Lake Osborne, who added the strangest thing he's found was a deflated air mattress.

Jefferson and Burgess both described the elevators as disgusting, and said they have seen people spitting in them. They said the worst thing they had found on the elevator was a used condom.

The elevators must pass an annual state inspection, but some students feel that is not enough.

Willoughby said he thinks the elevators should be inspected more often and more thoroughly, and some students think much more should be done.

"They should probably replace them. They spend a ton of money on the Space Science Center and all this parking stuff," Osborne said.

The company that made the elevators, Armco Elevator, was bought by a Finnish company, The Kone Corporation, in 1981, according to The New York Times.

George Tokarchick of the Kentucky Department of Building, Buildings and Construction, said based on the certificate numbers of the elevators, they are "rather old."

more everything.

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CRIME REPORT

- | | |
|---|---|
| Jan. 1
Jarrod Thacker
Alcohol Intoxication | Jan. 14
Mark Litton
DUI/possession of a controlled substance |
| Jan. 3
David Clark
DUI | Jan. 17
Trenton Vohl
DUI |
| Jan. 4
Opal Newsome
Driving on a suspended license | Jan. 23
Kellen Fouch
Possession of Marijuana |
| Jan. 7
Daniel Wallace
DUI/possession of Marijuana/resisting arrest | Jan. 24
Jack Shrader
Alcohol intoxication |
| Jan. 13
Ashley Higley
DUI | Jan. 31
Jonathan Lykins
Alcohol intoxication |
| | Feb. 3
Gene Detherage
Alcohol intoxication |

THE TRAIL BLAZER

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Showtimes for Friday, February 13th
thru Thursday, February 19th

Friday the 13th

R 95 mins
1:20, 4:15, 7:15, 9:45

Taken

R 95 mins
1:05, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40

The International

R 102 mins
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00

Push

PG-13 111 mins
1:00, 4:05, 7:00, 9:35

The Pink Panther 2

PG 92 mins
1:25, 4:25, 7:25, 9:50

Hotel for Dogs

PG 100 mins
1:15, 4:20

The Uninvited

PG-13 92 mins
7:20, 9:55

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ARMY STRONG®

EDITORIAL

Rethink the business model for MSU

While Kentucky legislators discuss changes to the state budget and members of the U.S. Congress decide if they should provide more money to the states for education, Morehead State University administrators, faculty and staff are trying to save money.

Faculty positions remain unfilled, investments are postponed, energy-saving measures are put in place, and programs are evaluated.

Their efforts deserve praise as they have allowed the university to continue working and delivering the education and other services to its students.

But these small adjustments are not enough. MSU administrators wrote in a recent impact statement to the state:

"Morehead State University remains the lowest-tuition four-year institution within the Commonwealth. However, continued reductions in state support create a greater dependency on available tuition revenue to meet fixed cost increases."

Students already look at tuition when they make their decisions related to higher education. Administrators have to use the same approach. They have to realize that in today's economic environment they are not simply running a state institution, but a business.

They have choices to make. They can either deliver a high-priced product or a low-priced product, they can deliver a lot to many customers, or little to few customers.

In simple terms, if Morehead State University were a supermarket, administrators would have the choice to become a mom-and-pop store or Wal-Mart.

As a mom-and-pop store, the university would down-size and provide a select number of quality programs to a smaller number of students, who would pay a premium price.

As Wal-Mart, the university would invest and expand to offer more programs to more students. As a result education would become less expensive.

Past comments by President Andrews, such as "right-sizing," and proposals in the Curriculum Audit Report that would eliminate majors suggest MSU administrators have made their decision; they want to run a mom-and-pop store.

A mom-and-pop store is much cozier. There are fewer employees to worry about and customers are willing to pay for premium products. But everyone knows which business model has been successful.

Instead of using legislators' cost-cutting proposals to turn the MSU supermarket into an expensive mom-and-pop store, administrators should figure out a new business plan for the university based on the Wal-Mart model.

This would provide more students higher education at a reduced cost. Students will cherish and benefit from it, even if it's not as exclusive.



Elevator fix is urgent



KATE JENNINGS
Managing Editor

Across campus, elevators whir up and down, ferrying students to their destinations. In general, the process is smooth, with one exception, as anyone who lives in Cartmell Hall can attest to. Cartmell, which has three elevators, suffers frequent breakdowns, often leaving the 16-floor dorm with a

capacity of more than 500 students depending a single working elevator.

The damaged elevators cause delays for students, making many late for classes, but more alarming, frequently leaving students stranded in stuck elevators. In addition to near constant breakdowns, the Cartmell elevators have a reputation for trapping students and free falling for several floors at a time.

We are told the state annually inspects the elevators for safety. But the Cartmell

elevators, made by Armor Elevator, are, according to George Tokarchick of the Department of Housing, Buildings and Construction, "rather old." Armor Elevator was sold to a Finnish company in 1981.

It is time for the university to invest in new elevators.

When recruiting, Morehead State promotes itself as being on the cutting edge with new classroom technology. But the residence halls are of equal and possibly more importance. It is hard to claim to be on the ball

technologically when the elevators don't work.

In addition to constant malfunctioning, the elevators in Cartmell are generally disgusting, with the floors littered with everything from food to used condoms.

It is time for the university to extend its zeal for expansion and improvement to the residence halls and provide students with a better living experience, or at least a more reliable way to get to their rooms.

States need federal help now



CARLO ANGERER
Editor

Just weeks into his presidency, Barack Obama is trying to persuade legislators to sign off on a stimulus package designed to pull the United States out of a recession.

But Obama is finding it hard to find a welcome ear among Senators and members of Congress — especially when it comes to his request for bipartisanship.

Despite recent calls by both Republicans and Democrats for bipartisanship, the politicians started bashing each other on the Sunday morning news talk shows.

Democrats said the government would have to spend most of the \$800 billion package and Republicans argued most of the money should be pumped into the economy through tax cuts.

It seemed it's all about social state services versus limited government — the seemingly eternal conflict between the two parties.

Enough already. There should be no argument about political philosophy. The money should be spent as cost-effectively as possible in a way that Americans will see relief as early as possible: Big bang of the buck — with the bang now.

Some spending on social programs sought by Democrats would not benefit the economy for years, because the plans are too long-term.

Republican tax cuts will not work in today's economic environment, because the poor will save the money and the rich will invest it.



No one will actually spend it and help out the businesses that are struggling because consumers are reluctant to spend what money they have for fear of having none in the future. There is only one avenue that would create immediate spending: The states.

Strapped for cash with no reserves all U.S. states would spend federal money immediately, whether it be

Kentucky hiring more teachers and building up-to-date educational facilities, or California investing in highways and bridges.

The states need federal help now. They are ready to consume and they are the only ones who can help the stagnant economic atmosphere.

The U.S. Senate proposal has eliminated most of the money that would have gone to states in favor of more tax cuts. It should reverse it: Its decision immediately before Kentucky and many other states are forced to mandate budget cuts that would wipe out necessary services, cost many more jobs and eliminate any hope for an economic turn-around for many years to come.

Be part of the discussion

The Trail Blazer welcomes reader responses. Letters should be 400 words or less and signed. Addresses and telephone numbers should be included (for verification purposes only). Letters must be received in Room 317 Breckinridge Hall or emailed to editor@trailblazeronline.net by 4 p.m. Friday for the next week's publication.

The Trail Blazer reserves the right to edit letters for purposes of clarity, brevity and legal considerations.

CAMPUS COMMENT

Where would you make the first cuts at MSU because of a tighter budget?

While MSU administrators prepare for another round of budget cuts, the Trail Blazer asked students what they would cut first

if they were in control.



Tiffany Kline
English Education
Junior, Manchester, Ohio

"I would cut out of the athletic department. They seem to get all the money."



Matthew Robertson
Business Management
Freshman, Mercer Co., Ky.

"I would cut faculty first and make bigger classes."



Cody Williams
Music Education
Junior, Carlisle, Ky.

"Probably vehicles. After my freshman year the university got a new SUV for the police."



Nichole Taylor
Elementary Education
Sophomore, Louisville, Ky.

"Athletics. They spend a lot of money on scholarships and the t-shirts they give away."

THE TRAIL BLAZER

Student sparring

COURTESY HASTING—STAFF WRITER

MSU student Tyler Marshall has never had any professional boxing training, but is ready to step into the ring. In January he competed in his first matches and hopes for more to come.

"I don't want to give someone a black eye or anything. I just want everyone to have fun," Marshall says.

Marshall has been training for two years. He decided to try it when his neighbors were boxing with friends in the yard. Marshall never had any trainer to show him the techniques or the right moves.

His television becomes his coach. He says he simply watches a lot of "how to" videos, and then applies them in his training. Marshall also gets feedback from watching himself on tape.

"I videotape myself boxing and critique myself. Then I apply what I learned," he says.

Marshall usually boxes in his sister's apartment or in Lexington. He's never practiced in a boxing gym. Especially after studying for his classes it is a great stress reliever, he says. He trains every day to prepare and keep him in shape.

"I find boxing to be the best cardio. I rarely run, but I should start. I do a lot to work on accuracy," he says.

Last January Marshall competed in his first tournament, the "Toughman" in Huntington, West Virginia. Amateur boxers sign up for several matches and the winner receives \$1,000.

Marshall says he did fairly well winning two of three matches.

Despite the loss, he decided to keep on training; the boxing atmosphere made him more competitive. At first he just wanted to box for fun, now he is concentrating on winning. But he still enjoys the sport.

"I like throwing punches at someone, and having them throw punches back. It's nice," he says. "After the match, everybody is still friends. Nobody gets mad. The hardest thing about it is that I sometimes feel bad for hitting people."

Marshall tries to keep a calm attitude in the ring. He says he does his best when he is calm and in a great mood; when someone fights with emotions they make mistakes.

Marshall competed again in the Toughman January 16-17. He defeated his first opponent, but lost his second match by the judges' decision.

"I'm ok with it," Marshall says. "The second guy I fought was more of an MMA (mixed martial arts) fighter, not a boxer. It's hard to box when you have someone rushing you like he did me. He's had multiple kick-boxing, boxing, and many MMA fights, and I've never been inside a gym. I did great."

Marshall does not have any more fights.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Feb. 12-15

51st Annual MSU Band Clinic in Baird Music Hall

Feb. 12, 1 p.m.

Volunteer at Hope Center sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha at the Hope Center

Feb. 12, 7 p.m.

Faculty reading series featuring Crystal Wilkinson and George Eklund at the Folk Art Center

Feb. 13, 10 p.m.

Perfectly Pretty in Pink Party in the Laughlin Mirror Room. Those dressed in pink get in for \$2, all others for \$4

Feb. 17, 8 p.m.

Armistead Saxophone Quartet concert in Duncan Recital Hall

Feb. 18, 7 p.m.

"The Religious Journey Of The College Student" by Dr. Wayne Andrews at Jesus Our Savior Catholic Church

planned yet, but is hoping to be boxing in Lexington soon. And he is trying to help his brother get a foot into the scene, too. The two are training together.

"I'm 22, and he's 17. I wish I had started at his age," he says. "It's always better to start at a younger age. Kids who do something their whole lives seem to be a little above those who pick it up later. I wish I'd started at an earlier age so I'd be better than what I am now."



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-W. (PG-13)
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available feb. 17

-Body of Lies (R)
-Changeling (PG-13)
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-How to Lose Friends & Alienate People (R)
-The Midnight Meat Train (Unrated)
-Quarantine (R)

available feb. 24

-The Haunting of Molly Hartley (PG-13)
-What Just Happened (R)

Fighting to stay in school

CAROLIE TUFRANO—STAFF WRITER

The downtrodden economy has thrown many undecided students into turmoil when it comes to paying for their education.

With the unemployment rate rising, students are having a harder time finding jobs and a harder time paying for tuition.

Some, like Cory Burton, had to drop out. "I've been trying to find a job for about three months and have applied for at least 30 different places," he said.

Burton said he received some federal financial aid but not enough to cover all of his college expenses.

When he realized he would not have enough money left over from his last part-time job Burton decided not to return to

MSU for the spring semester and is

continuing his job search in his hometown, Mount Sterling, in hopes of saving money to return to college in the fall.

Burton said he could not turn to his parents for help because his mother had been laid-off.

"Other people are having the same problem. There just aren't a lot of jobs to go around. Without a job, I'm not going to be able to pay off what I owe from last semester," Burton said.

The Burton family is not alone. The Department of Labor, about 600,000 jobs were lost last month.

Junior Verette DeLaGuardia received a financial wake-up call last semester when her father

was injured on the job and unable to work for several months. DeLaGuardia works extra hours to stay in college.

"The economy has had a negative effect on many Americans. My parents are not able to provide for me the way they wish they could," said DeLaGuardia. Her parents said for her first two years at MSU but were unable to contribute this year.

Since last semester DeLaGuardia has been working two jobs to help pay for her tuition at MSU.

"I had to grow up really fast and get a job," she said.

DeLaGuardia said she works 7-10 hours a week giving campus tours for the Enrollment Services office and 20-30 hours on the weekends at Applebee's in Mount Sterling.

"It's really hard because I'm so busy with school that sometimes I just don't have a lot of time to give them (Applebee's) during the week," she said.

She expects to be financing the rest of her education herself unless the economy improves.

Despite economic troubles Morehead State University enrollment has been increasing.

"Our number of acceptances, students for Fall 2009 is currently up about 6 percent compared to the same time last year," said Vice President of Enrollment Services, Jeffrey Liles.

"Generally during an economic downturn, students realize a college education is a solid investment in the future to be as competitive as possible in the job market," said Liles.

He said the majority of Morehead students receive some kind of financial aid and that all grants, scholarships, and loans are still available to students without impact from the economy.

Director of Financial Aid, Donna King, said "MSU is a direct lending institution, so our student loan funds come directly from the U.S. government. We have been able to continue to serve students' needs without being dependent on banks and lenders."

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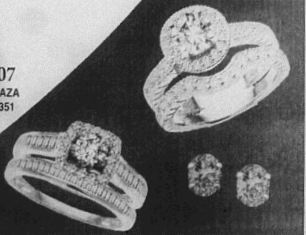
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February 12, 2009

THE TRAIL BLAZER

Lady Eagles split conference road trip

CLAYTON AKERS — STAFF WRITER

The Morehead State Lady Eagles suffered a tough 72-67 conference loss on the road Saturday at the hands of the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles. With the loss the Lady Eagles fell to 14-11 overall, and 8-5 in the OVC.

The Lady Eagles trailed for the majority of the game, and found themselves down as many as 16 early in the second half, but scored back with great play by sophomore guard Chynna Bozeman, who led the team with 16 points.

MSU outscored the Golden Eagles 42-35 in the second half, but fell short in the end to the Golden Eagles and senior guard Megan Lyons, who netted a game-high 21 points and dished out four assists.

"We didn't come out with a sense of urgency to play," freshman guard Courtney Lumpkin said. "The second

half we came ready to play, but we've got to learn how to start playing the first half as we do the second half."

OVC Player of the Week, center Brittany Pittman, echoed her point guard, and said the team needed to play with a better sense of urgency.

Pittman tallied her 10th double-double of the season with 14 points and 11 rebounds. She also added four blocks, bringing her season total to 137.

The NCAA Division I single season blocks record is 156.

Pittman is excited about approaching the blocks record.

"I just play my game," Pittman said. "I'm excited for it [blocks record], and I get lots of praise for it, but that's just something I do."

Tennessee Tech outscored Morehead State 38-29, and forced the Lady Eagles to commit 17 turnovers. The Golden Eagles improved to 6-18 over-

all and 4-9 in the OVC.

Prior to the loss on Saturday, the Lady Eagles rallied from a 20-point deficit Thursday night at Jacksonville State to defeat the Gamecocks in overtime 87-77.

The Gamecocks built up a 38-26 lead going into halftime and were up by as many as 20 points in the second half.

MSU junior guard Tiffany Stephens brought a big boost from the bench, scoring all 15 of her points in the second half to help bring the Lady Eagles even with the Gamecocks 72-72 at the end of regulation.

In overtime the Lady Eagles stepped up their defense, holding Jacksonville State to five points on 0 of 6 shooting from the field. The MSU offense produced 15 points in overtime led by guard Chynna Bozeman with a game-high 26 points and six rebounds.

"A great win for us," junior center

Brittany Pittman said. "We took it upon ourselves to play our game and had to pick up the intensity, and came back to win it in overtime."

Freshman guard Courtney Lumpkin said the team took it one play at a time and kept fighting to get back in the game.

Lumpkin was a floor general dishing out a team high five assists, and chipped in with 14 points. Center Brittany Pittman produced five of MSU's eight blocked shots, and netted 10 points on the offensive end.

The Lady Eagles edged the Gamecocks in the rebounding department 40-38, and shot 36 percent from the foul line, hitting 32 of 37 free throws. MSU had been shooting 69 percent from the free-throw line on the season prior to the game.

"The team shoots free throws at the end of every practice, and the los-

ing team runs. So we make it a game," Lumpkin said, with a slight laugh.

The Lady Eagles swept the season series against Jacksonville State 2-0. The Gamecocks fell to 4-18 overall and 1-11 in the OVC.

Morehead State will return home after a two game road trip to take on the conference foe Eastern Illinois Panthers at Johnson Arena Thursday night. The Panthers hold the second spot in the OVC, and will bring an excellent inside presence with post players.

"They have fantastic post players," center Brittany Pittman said. "We know what to do this game because we already played them."

MSU guard Courtney Lumpkin agrees with her teammate Pittman saying if the team holds the Panthers post players down in points the Lady Eagles will have a chance.

Softball ready for battle this season

KOREN ELLIS — STAFF WRITER

The changing of the seasons brings spring sports to life at MSU. Looking to continue where they left off is Lady Eagle's softball. Head Coach Holly Bruder remains anxious to see what this season's hard work will bring to her team that finished the '08 season 34-16.

MSU returns with five starters and even more eager and competitive minds. These ladies follow a season of records and history making led by the steady arm of Alex Gjevre.

"The Eagles lost four seniors last year in short stop Allison Henkosky, first baseman Brandy Bucher, pitcher Kari Quinn, and catcher Corey Ellis."

"We lost some leadership and talent last year which has affected the team dynamics. Talent will be replaced but the leadership has been crucial," Bruder said. "We have to find our 'uniqueness' and make it our own this year. The coaching staff pushes them daily and the strong will survive."

Gjevre was named OVC pitcher of the year with the single season record of 17 wins and 125 strikeouts, making her a tough competitor and key ingredient for this year's team.

Gjevre also appeared in 109 innings, allowing 10 earned runs, and needing just seven more wins to post another school record.

Junior Sarah Funston, a 6-foot-2-inch hurler, showed her strength as a closer last season, with

two saves and only 12 earned runs in 61 turns at the plate.

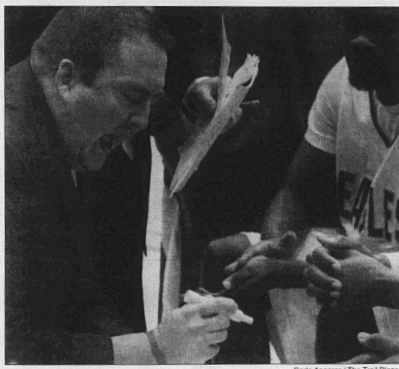
"Among these veteran players, on the infield is lone senior second baseman BJ Jones. Also returning are juniors Bianca Cadorens behind the plate and Bethany Ellis at first base. These four should add depth to the batting line-up to overpower some of the good teams in the OVC," Bruder said.

"We will have to use our strengths to fight some teams," Bruder said. "We should make it back into the conference tournament and do better than we did last year. With just the experience of the tournament alone we should perform better once we're there."

The outfield holds some familiar faces in junior Courtney Seiler, Brittany Schuster, Ashley Archer and sophomore Brenna Maleta.

The Eagles open pre-season play with a tougher schedule than last year, taking on Auburn and Western Kentucky this weekend, Boston College in late February and the University of Kentucky at home in March.

"I think it's pressure that good teams and good coaches put on themselves," Bruder said. "We are a completely different team than last year and we have to accept and appreciate that. We love that we have started a strong softball tradition here but we cannot focus on the past, only on the future to continue this tradition."



Head coach Donnie Tyndall gives pointers to forward Steve Peterson on the sideline.

MSU men hold onto OVC lead

CODY EVANS — SPORTS EDITOR

The Eagles posted a 1-1 record in two road games last week, losing an upset to Jacksonville State 52-57, before downing Tennessee Tech 72-64.

The split moved MSU's record to 14-11 on the season (10-3 in the OVC). The Eagles now hold a slight lead over UT Martin for first place in the conference.

Senior Leon Buchanan and sophomore Kenneth Faried ended both games in double-figure scoring, including a 23-point, 19-rebound performance by Faried against Tennessee Tech.

Head coach Donnie Tyndall said the Tennessee Tech win meant a lot for MSU's season and the program.

"It was a huge win that keeps us in contention for the OVC championship," Tyndall said. "We were able to bounce back after a tough loss. It's the best win since being here [at Morehead State]."

Tyndall attributed the Eagles' loss to Jacksonville State to a poor offensive performance.

"Too many turnovers," Tyndall said. "We didn't shoot the ball well. Robert [Murray] fouled out. We never got in rhythm."

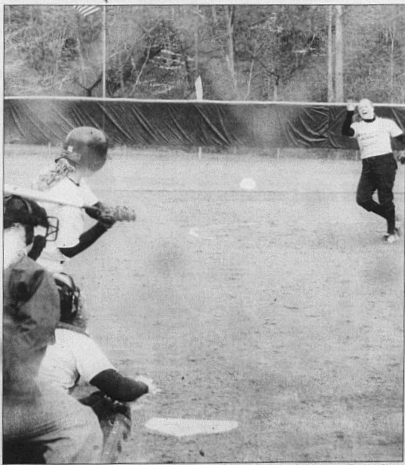
With the OVC championship

less than a month away, MSU is hoping to remain in the conference driver's seat when Eastern Illinois comes to town Thursday night.

EU currently ranks fourth in the conference, one of several teams still within striking distance of MSU.

Tyndall is embracing his team's success, but not looking past a tough matchup with the Panthers.

"They're a very good team," Tyndall said. "Very efficient within the zone; about 95 percent zone play."



Junior Alex Gjevre returns as the Lady Eagles' leading pitcher.

Carlo Angerer / The Trail Blazer



UT coach still is unproven

CODY EVANS — SPORTS EDITOR

Since the summer of 2007, head Tennessee Football Coach Lane Kiffin has emerged from relative obscurity to become one of the most promising and irritating figures in college sports.

During his time at USC, Kiffin, like many Trojan coaches and players, absorbed the best and worst of Pete Carroll — a brilliant offensive mind, coupled with an equally offensive attitude.

While it is difficult to dispute

the brightness of Kiffin's future, it is just as difficult to overlook his collegiate head-coaching record, 0-0. Winless. Which means no bragging rights. He's never won in the swamp, he's never rolled over the tide, and he's never one-upped the old ball coach. He's never done anything.

Since his arrival at Tennessee a few months ago, Kiffin has grabbed the attention of several SEC coaches, most notably Urban Meyer. In only four years at Florida, Meyer has taken home two BCS titles and produced Heisman-superstar

Tim Tebow. Bragging rights.

Kiffin may prove to be the Pat Summitt of football before all is said and done, but he isn't there yet. Instead of calling Urban on recruiting violations, Kiffin should be calling Urban to ask for clarification on the recruiting rules.

How quickly the Vols return to the SEC spotlight will depend on which Lane Kiffin shows up in August. The Lane Kiffin that stood up to Al Davis and almost turned the Raiders around, or the Lane Kiffin that took the silver spoon out of his mouth only to insert his foot.

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